

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
PROGRAM

1. DURING A MEETING JUNE 6 BETWEEN THE MINISTERS OF PLANNING, LABOR, AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE LEADERS OF THE VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CTV) THE MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THE INTENTION OF THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR VENEZUELAN WORKERS. THE MINISTERS PROMISED FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE CTV PRIOR TO THE PROMULGATION OF ANY ECONOMIC DECREES BY THE GOVERNMENT.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, VENEZUELA ALREADY HAS A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES RETIREMENT, MEDICAL AND DISABILITY BENEFITS. ALTHOUGH THE VENEZUELAN CONSTITUTION CONTAINS A CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, SUCH A PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED DUE TO A LACK OF FUNDS.

3. DURING THE VISIT OF THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE INSTITUTE TO CARACAS DURING APRIL, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP, DAVID EDGELL, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LEFT SPANISH LANGUAGE MATERIAL FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WITH THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE. THIS MATERIAL DESCRIBES THE FUNCTIONING OF A STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM. THE MATERIAL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN TO A VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIAL WHO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SUCH A PROGRAM COULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE GOV AS THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION

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OF NATIONAL INCOME.

4. JOSE VARGAS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECRETARY OF THE CTV, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE GOV COMMISSION DESIGNATED TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND AN IMPORTANT AD DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, HAS ALSO EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FUNCTIONING OF AN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM.

5. IN VIEW OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS NOW EXISTING IN VENEZUELA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE OR LABOR COULD FORWARD TO THE EMBASSY ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE MATERIAL ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS, TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONSIDER USEFUL. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT EDGELL, IN VIEW OF HIS CONTACTS WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIALS HERE DURING HIS VISIT, MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE PERTINENT DOCUMENTS.

6. IN VIEW OF CURRENT INTEREST ON THE PART OF BOTH MINISTRY OF LABOR AND CTV OFFICIALS, PLEASE ADVISE AS TO WHEN THE MATERIALS CAN BE SENT FROM WASHINGTON.

MCCLINTOCK

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